

Fred Sullivan
Chairman

Janine L. Burke
Executive Director



Scott Avedisian
Mayor

Warwick Sewer Authority
125 Arthur W. Devine Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02886
Voice: (401) 739-4949 • Fax: (401) 739-1414

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 25, 2012, 5:30 p.m.
Warwick Sewer Authority Conference Room
125 Arthur W. Devine Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02886

Board Members in attendance:	Guests:
Fred Sullivan, Chairman	Dennis Setzko, P.E., AECOM
Aaron Guckian, Secretary	Erik Meserve, P.E., AECOM
Steven Sylven, P.E.	GF Phase III property owners (approx. 40)
Peter Ginaitt	
Gary Jarvis	
Staff present:	
Janine L. Burke, Executive Director	John Revens, Legal Counsel
Patrick Doyle, Superintendent	Mathew Solitro, Collection System Manager
Earl Bond, Lead Mechanic	Lynda Ortiz, Finance Customer Service Mgr.
Lynn F. Owens, Administrative Coordinator	

1. Call to Order At 5:34 p.m. Chairman Sullivan called this meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting held September 27, 2012.

ACTION: Following review of the minutes, Mr. Sylven moved approval. Mr. Guckian seconded the motion. Chairman Sullivan, Messrs. Ginaitt, Guckian, Sylven and Jarvis voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

3. Phosphorous Removal Project

a. AECOM to submit progress report

Mr. Erik Meserve stated the progress report, implementation schedule and 60% construction cost estimates were included in the agenda packets. He stated this month we held a meeting at WSA to review the 60% design report. Mr. Meserve submitted the meeting notes and comments to the Board. He stated we are still on schedule; the 90% design should be ready early December. He stated the cost estimate for the project has come down by about 3.5% percent. He stated AECOM received an email

from RIDEM (Jay Manning) regarding Buy American provisions, which will be added to the bid specifications.

4. Flood Protection and Mitigation

a. Financial Report of Flood Expenses

Director Burke reported she had signed off on the final FEMA Project Worksheet for all of Hart Engineering's work the day before. She stated in the packet was a summary of the final damages we have claimed, the amounts covered by insurance and the amounts we expect to be reimbursed by FEMA (\$3.5 million).

b. Flood Protection design contract progress report

Director Burke stated we were notified earlier in the week via Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) that FEMA's regional office in Boston denied the appeal for levee grant funding. She stated General McBride, head of RIEMA, who actually toured the treatment facility and levee last week, has spoken to Paul Ford, Acting Regional Administrator at FEMA Region 1, to develop a path forward. She stated the General has also reached out to Mayor Avedisian to let him know RIEMA is moving forward with an appeal to FEMA on our behalf. Director Burke stated the Congressional delegation has been informed and she was aware that Senator Whitehouse's office is prepared to assist in any appeal effort.

Mr. Guckian suggested Director Burke speak with Mr. Revens, George Zainyeh from Governor Chafee's office, and Curt Spaulding, EPA regional director, regarding the FEMA denial. Director Burke stated RIDEM director Janet Coit is aware of the denial.

Mr. Setzko stated AECOM researched FloodSax as a flood mitigating tool. He said their review is that it works well in small applications. Director Burke stated we will keep the information in our files.

c. Bellows Street Pumping Station

i. Crossman Engineering to submit progress report

Collection Systems manager Mathew Solitro discussed the progress of the project. He stated WSA and the contractor are addressing an issue with the sheeting and the relocation of power lines (required due to recent changes in National Grid's guidelines). Mr. Solitro stated there will be a cost associated with this extra work. He stated there was no way for our engineer or contractor could have known at the time of bid that National Grid would change their requirements. He stated we are in the process of

getting a building permit. He stated we are still in the shop drawing submittal phase.

5. Operation and Maintenance Division

- a. Replacement pumps (2) at Apponaug pumping station
David F. Sullivan & Associates: \$44,000.00

ACTION: Superintendant Doyle stated we did get a third quote but it was not a “plug-and-play” style pump and would have cost WSA more to modify existing equipment; the quote was not considered.

Mr. Ginaitt moved approval of the staff recommendation. Mr. Jarvis seconded the motion. Chairman Sullivan, Messrs. Ginaitt, Guckian, Sylven and Jarvis voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

6. Collection Systems Division

- a. Cedar Swamp pumping station: odor complaints and mitigating efforts

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Director Burke asked Mathew Solitro to speak to our efforts to address odor complaints in the area of our Cedar Swamp pumping station. She stated over the last six months we have been aggressively working on this issue on three fronts, chemical addition in the collection system at the remote pumping stations, reconfiguring the manhole just outside the pumping station, and updating the ventilation system at the station.

Mr. Solitro stated in 2008 we started getting odor complaints and attributed this to the long period of time the waste sits in the collection system from the Tidewater station to the Cedar Swamp station. He stated at that time, many people were not connected to the system; we thought the waste was going septic (due to low flows). He stated we installed a water valve to flush out the force main; that seemed to help a little bit. Mr. Solitro stated everyone is well aware of the line collapse at the Cedar Swamp station (2011). Mr. Solitro stated after the collapse was repaired, we still had high H₂S (hydrogen sulfide) readings. He stated it was agreed to do a bioxide solution distribution throughout a portion of that collection system (Tidewater, Angelsea and Buttonwoods pumping stations). He stated the bioxide keeps the gas in solution so it does not go airborne. Mr. Solitro stated other mitigating efforts include adding an inside drop in the Cedar Swamp manhole, and installing a new ventilation system in the pumping station.

- b. Infrastructure Improvement: 48” line under Rte. 95

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Mr. Solitro stated we are looking at different technologies to improve this critical line, including the insertion of a Hobas

pipe to avoid a bypass situation. Director Burke stated we will ask an engineer (Wright-Pierce) to review options and conduct a benefit cost analysis. She stated the line is not at risk of collapsing. She stated this infrastructure project is listed on the State's Project Priority List.

c. Update on status of future sewer construction

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Director Burke stated a spreadsheet of future sewer construction projects was provided at the last meeting. No new information; this item will remain on the agenda.

d. Warwick GIS Program Update

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Director Burke stated due to technical issues (no WiFi or laptop), we are unable to present the GIS program update in the conference room. She invited board members to visit Mr. Miranda's office to see his GIS work. She stated the planned demonstration will be rescheduled to the November meeting. Director Burke stated we are working with Fuss & O'Neill on a pilot project to get our GIS data on the web, in the cloud, where the public can access the information. She stated she would like the Board and other department heads to look at the data first before we put it out there for the public.

Chairman Sullivan stated he did get a chance to look at the updated information and encouraged the Board members to check it out.

7. Billing Services Division

a. Sewer Assessment Deferment (New)

Name	Year	Address	Reason
William J. & Madeline F. Nixon	1	281 Kirby Avenue, Plat 382 Lot 0114	Single family; 1.34 acres

ACTION: Tabled from September 27, 2012. Director Burke asked that this item be held. It is possible the property owners may seek relief from the Sewer Board of Review.

8. Administrative Items

a. Director's Report

- i. Financial Report: Updated report included in agenda packets.
- ii. Administrative Schedule: no information presented.

b. Chairman's Report

- i. Changes to Enabling Legislation relative to Section 2.17 (b)
Mandatory connection to sewers

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Held from 8-23-12. Chairman Sullivan stated we will hold this item to November.

- ii. Phosphorous Removal Project: Deadline extension
DISCUSSION/ACTION: Held from 8-23-12. Chairman Sullivan stated we will hold this item to November.

c. Sewer Assessment Committee Report

Mr. Jarvis stated hopefully next month we'll have something to discuss in terms of how we want to approach the legislative changes regarding assessments, changing some of the way we do things, a better way to get it done.

9. Consent Agenda - Correspondence

- a. RIDOT to WSA re: Comments on Flood Protection and Mitigation Preliminary Design Report (9-28-12)
- b. Assessment Deferment Renewal: Plat 364 Lot 212 (9-25-12)
- c. WSA to City Council re: September 2012 Financial report (10-9-12)
- d. WSA to CRMC re: MSCP Quarterly Report September 2012 (10-12-12)
- e. WSA September 2012 activity report to Mayor Avedisian (10-15-12)

ACTION: Mr. Jarvis moved to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Ginaitt seconded the motion. Chairman Sullivan, Messrs. Ginaitt, Guckian, Sylven and Jarvis voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

10. New Business

Introduction of new business to be docketed for an upcoming meeting or to be referred to the executive director or legal counsel for comment.

No new business presented.

11. Old Business

- a. WSA Sewer Assessment Deferment Policy (tabled to November 15, 2012)
- b. Amendments to By-Laws
- c. Modifications to Septage Hauling Regulations
- d. IPP Local Limits Study
- e. WSA Resolution Supporting Revenue Bond Issuance for new sewer construction projects
- f. Mandatory Sewer Connection Program/Connect Capable Fee
- g. Amendment to GRA contract/design services for Bayside Sewers (tabled to November 15, 2012)

No comment on Old Business items.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Sullivan briefed the audience on the guidelines of the Public Comment Period. Mr. Guckian suggested the fifteen minute time period be extended to thirty minutes in light of the number of people in attendance. Mr. Jarvis made a motion to extend the time period to thirty minutes. While no formal vote was taken, Board members agreed to extend the time period to thirty minutes. Attorney Revens clarified the guidelines of the public comment period.

Approximately forty (40) people from the Governor Francis Farms Phase III sewer project area attended the meeting to encourage the WSA Board of Directors to bring sewers to their neighborhood.

Due to the volume of people present, and the guidelines of the Public Comment Period which prevents the Board from responding to comment, Mr. Guckian encouraged property owners to contact Executive Director Janine Burke and Administrative Coordinator Lynn Owens for answers to specific questions.

Mr. Ginaitt stated this public comment period is new to this Board and allows us to hear your thoughts and concerns about the Warwick Sewer Authority. He encouraged attendees to express their important issues. He said this Board understands the value of sewerage and the real value of having a group gather to advance what we have been trying to do in Warwick.

Mr. Guckian suggested to Director Burke that a meeting be organized where property owners can have a dialogue with the WSA staff. Mr. Jarvis suggested every City Council member be invited to that meeting. He stated we need support from our local legislation to authorize bond funding for continued sewer construction. Mr. Sylven asked that Director Burke review the status of the Governor Francis Phase III sewer project. Director Burke stated this project is about ninety percent designed; the pump station lot must be identified, and we need funding (approximately \$5 million). Chairman Sullivan offered to speak with people after the meeting.

The public comment period began at 6:30 p.m. Speakers included Melody Allen, Susan Brown, Richard Kuehl, Cheryl Langevin, Diane Graves, Ed Pereira, Susan Shapiro and Laura Pisaturo; they shared their comments with the Board. Ms. Diane Foley read a prepared statement to the Board (part of meeting record). All speakers asked that sewers be constructed in the Governor Francis Farms Phase III project area.

At 6:46 p.m. the public comment period ended.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Ginaitt moved to adjourn this meeting. Mr. Sylven seconded the motion. Chairman Sullivan, Messrs. Ginaitt, Guckian, Sylven and Jarvis voted in favor of the motion. Motion approved.

At 6:48 p.m. this meeting ended.

Aaron Guckian, WSA Secretary

Date